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INFORMATION FROM  
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY German Democratic Republic

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Military; Paramilitary

DATE DIST. 6 Feb 1951

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

WHERE PUBLISHED Sweden; Switzerland

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE PUBLISHED 19 Nov, 4 Dec 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Swedish; German

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

DESCRIBES PEOPLE'S POLICE,  
SAYS AIR UNIT BEING ADDED

TELLS ROLE, ORGANIZATION OF EAST GERMAN POLICE -- Stockholm, Dagens Nyheter, 4 Dec 50

Berlin, 3 December -- The foundation stones supporting "Pieckistan" [East Germany] are the Soviet occupation forces, the Communist Party, and the police. The police is the extended arm of the party. In East Germany, it consists of three elements, each different in function: the civil police, the Bereitschaft (alert) police, and the security police.

The civil police, which, together with the Bereitschaft police, goes under the name "People's Police," is not of particular interest. It includes traffic police, criminal police, and police to maintain order.

The Bereitschaft police presents a different problem. It is militarily organized, quartered in barracks, and armed with rifles, machine guns, light artillery, and mortars. At present, it numbers 80,000 men, and plans call for 300,000 men in 1952.

Party loyalty standards are set much higher in the Bereitschaft police than in the civil police. Members are constantly being tested, and, following the Soviet pattern, the men are under the constant supervision of political commissars.

The Soviets provide their own commissars for this purpose. Each regiment (Bereitschaft) has a Soviet officer in a People's Police uniform. His primary purpose is to supervise the effectiveness of the military training, but he also keeps an eye on ideological instruction, which, in the preliminary training, takes up 60 percent of the trainee's time.

The higher officer posts are occupied by former officers from the Nazi army, who, while prisoners, went "von Paulus" and were re-educated into "progressive people's democrats." There are also former SS officers in the Bereitschaft police. The basic training is very strict and is conducted in the old Prussian manner, with precise marching and physical and military discipline.

- 1 -

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Opinion in Western Germany is divided as to the purpose of the People's Police. Chancellor Adenauer regards the Bereitschaft police as a strong argument for West German rearmament, while other West German politicians believe that the People's Police constitutes no offensive threat without the support of the Red Army. The training and the armament indicate rather that the intended role of the Bereitschaft police corresponds to that of Himmler's Waffen-SS, that is, to follow behind a regular army and conduct purges in the conquered towns and cities. The training in street fighting and corresponding weapons also indicates that the Bereitschaft police is intended to protect the state and the party against their own subjects.

A so-called People's Naval Police is being organized. It numbers about 8,000 men, stationed at Rostock, Stralsund, and Sassnitz. The People's Naval Police has not yet received much in the way of boats, but a number of light vessels are under construction; 30 light destroyers are mentioned as the first stage. Thus far, the People's Naval Police has had to be content with armored trawlers, a few motor torpedo boats, and customs service cutters.

Plans have also been made for an Air Police, but little progress along this line has been made. Pilot training, however, is said to be in progress at the Soviet airfields in the Eastern Zone, where a small number of People's Police are reputedly learning to handle new Soviet jets. The People's Police do not have any aircraft of their own as yet; there are indications that the Soviets recently have been slowing down this development.

The Bereitschaft police today does not appear to be particularly well suited for any offensive actions across the border. Neither the strength, armament, level of training, nor personnel indicates such a development. To be sure, the discipline over the men is very strict, but in an offensive action it would necessarily become less rigid, and a percentage of desertions up to 60 percent could then be figured on. This guess may be hazarded because, among other things, it is known that the recruiting drives for the People's Police are successful only because the alternative is the uranium mines.

Formally, the People's Police is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior, but actually it occupies a completely independent position and has its own staff, called the HVA (Hauptverwaltung Ausbildung, Main Administration for Training). This staff is in direct contact with the Politburo and the Red Army. The head of the HVA from the start was Wilhelm Zaisser, who later was appointed Minister of Security. Inasmuch as no one was designated to succeed him as director of the HVA, it may be presumed that Zaisser holds both posts. Zaisser is primarily the political head, while Karl Maron is the military head and Kurt Hoffmann the organizational head. All three are Communists of long standing. They were trained in the USSR and hold Soviet citizenship and rank in the Red Army.

Gradually the People's Naval and Air Police will get their own staffs. A superior authority, a sort of general staff (Führungstab), is about to be organized; significantly, it is being located in Potsdam. A feverish attempt is being made to recruit former high-ranking officers from West Germany for this general staff. After being retrained in Moscow, these officers would take over the strategic planning. The recruiting campaign has not been completely without success. Among the coming leaders of the general staff may be included the relatively unknown Markgraf, former East Berlin police chief.

Still more secret, naturally, is everything affecting the Ministry of Security and its numerous branches, including the secret security police. Minister of Security Zaisser is completely free from inspection by the government; only Ulbricht, in his capacity as chief of the Politburo, has the opportunity to influence decisions.

- 2 -

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Zaisser's model is the Soviet secret police, the NKVD, with whose organs in East Germany there is close cooperation. The East German network of agents is highly developed and has an elaborate system of checks. A considerable number of experts from Himmler's SD (Security Service) have gone to work for Zaisser. The secret police tap telephone lines, open mail, examine party bosses' pasts, and decide their futures. Both ministers and ordinary citizens are under constant silent observation.

Since "Pieckistan" was founded over a year ago, 15 state ministers, 52 Landtag members, and 16 Reichstag members have been imprisoned or have fled to West Germany.

The Ministry of Security, not yet a year old, has thus far purged 612 leading functionaries of the Communist Party. The purge of the SED was Zaisser's first mission when he became Minister of Security, and he did his job well. -- Bo Järborg

REPORTS AIR FORCE UNIT CREATED -- Zurich, Die Tat, 19 Nov 50

The British-licensed newspaper Telegraf reports the creation of the first Air Force Unit of the People's Police in East Germany. The unit consists of 1,000 men. They were trained in the former air force school in Gotha, Thuringen, and are now stationed there. The air force component of the People's Police is to have a temporary strength of 5,000 men before the end of 1950.

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- 3 -

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